IT IS CLAIMED:

1. A transgenic plant comprising a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes or is complementary to a sequence that encodes a PPR1 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an ortholog thereof, wherein said transgenic plant has increased resistance to pathogens controlled by the salicylic acid-dependent resistance pathway relative to control plants.

2. The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a constitutive promoter that controls expression of the PPR1 polypeptide or ortholog.

3. The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the transformation vector comprises a pathogen-inducible promoter that controls expression of the PPR1 polypeptide or ortholog.

4. The transgenic plant of claim 1 which encodes a PPR1 ortholog comprising SEQ ID NO:3.

5. The transgenic plant of claim1 that exhibits constitutive expression of endogenous PDF1.2 and PR1.

6. The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a PPR1 ortholog that comprises a serine-rich domain.

7. The transgenic plant of claim 1 wherein the nucleotide sequence encodes a PPR1 ortholog having at least 50% sequence identity with SEQ ID NO:2.

8. A method of producing increased pathogen resistance in a plant, said method comprising:

a) introducing into progenitor cells of the plant a plant transformation vector comprising a nucleotide sequence that encodes or is complementary to a sequence that encodes a PPR1 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, or an ortholog thereof, and

b) growing the transformed progenitor cells to produce a transgenic plant, wherein said polynucleotide sequence is expressed, and said transgenic plant exhibits increased

resistance to pathogens controlled by the salicylic acid-dependent resistance pathway relative to control plants.

9. A plant obtained by a method of claim 8.

10. A plant part obtained from a plant according to claim 9.

11. A method of generating a plant having an increased pathogen resistance phenotype comprising identifying a plant that has an allele in its PPR1 gene that results in increased pathogen resistance compared to plants lacking the allele and generating progeny of said identified plant, wherein the generated progeny inherit the allele and have the increased pathogen resistance phenotype.

12. The method of claim 11 that employs candidate gene/QTL methodology.

13. The method of claim 11 that employs TILLING methodology.